Amendment in Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994

451. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued an Ordinance to amend the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Ordinance and the purpose thereof;

(c) whether a section of medical practitioners has expressed grave reservations about some of its provisions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Deaths of infants in King George Medical College, Lucknow

452. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several infants had died due to failure of oxygen plant in King George Medical College, Lucknow and PM Office had asked for a report in the matter;

(b) if so, whether the report has been submitted;

(c) if so, the major features of the said report; and

(d) the action taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. The death of the infants at Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit at King George Medical College, Lucknow was due to the serious primary condition of the patients and can not be attributed to lack of oxygen.

PM Office had asked for a status report on a news<-item in this regard from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Major features of the report are as under:—

(i) The system of Neo-natal intensive care unit was in order;

(ii) There was shortage of beds/staff nurses which needed to be augmented;

(iii) To maintain record regarding attendance of Senior Doctors and to call them during emergency.

(d) To strengthen the system and to avoid recurrence of such incidents, the State Government has decided to take certain measures like creation of additional posts of Nurses, setting up a committee to analyze the operational efficiency of the equipments, signing of AMC, taking steps for streamlining and improvement of oxygen supply line.

Vaccine for AIDS

†453. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government to manufacture effective vaccine to encounter dangerous diseases like AIDS;

(b) to what extent, success has been achieved in the field of research inthis regard; and

(c) by when a vaccine for AIDS is likely to be manufactured in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (Moll) on 4th December, 2000, with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to further promote and accelerate the efforts to develop and indigenous AIDS vaccine that will address the strains of the HIV subtype C predominant in India. The Government of India, ICMR and IAVI agreement is based on a commitment toward collaboration and transparancy in vaccine trials for development of a vaccine.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.